



Ranua - Tailor Made



HOLIDAY TYPE: Tailor Made
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 5507
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

Choose how you want to spend your time in Ranua, Finland during this tailor-made adventure. Combine encounters with some of the Arctic's most endangered species at a Wildlife Park with some unforgettable winter activities, all within easy reach of your fantastic apartment accommodation.

Our Opinion

“ Having visited Ranua myself, I can safely say that it is a unique destination in Lapland, offering animal encounters at the Wildlife Park which are unforgettable. Seeing the polar bears being fed is something special. The fact that this experience can be combined with the likes of husky safaris, snowmobiling and horse-drawn sleigh rides in the snow, is also rather special. I also found the accommodation really appealing and very comfortable – it is spacious, airy and modern but also retains a cosy charm. ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



What's included?

- **Flights:** either direct from London to Rovaniemi or indirect via Helsinki (depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change and indirect flights may require a flight supplement. Please speak to our Travel Experts for further details.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers between Rovaniemi and Ranua
- **Accommodation:** minimum of 3 nights apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** half board (full board upgrade available for a supplement after 10th January)
- **Activities:** choose from our extensive range which is detailed in the '[Activities](#)' section of the holiday page (activities are all priced individually). The order of activities you select is subject to change
- Unlimited access to Ranua Wildlife Park
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for any activities

Trip Overview

Ranua offers a tantalising combination of excellent accommodation, a range of exceptional activities and some truly unique opportunities at Ranua Wildlife Park.

Ranua Wildlife Park is the main base for all activities here and it is just a short walk from the accommodation. All of the key winter activity options are possible and as this is a tailor-made holiday option, you can pick and choose from the activities listed in the '[Activities](#)' section of the holiday page. You can snowmobile, dog sled, enjoy reindeer encounters and horse-drawn sleigh rides, try snowshoeing or cross-country skiing all within easy reach of your delightful accommodation. You will also receive unlimited access to the park throughout your stay too.

The main thing, however, which helps Ranua stand out from other destinations, is the Wildlife Park. Home to some of the Arctic's, if not the world's, most endangered animals it is a place that adds a lot of unique experiences to your winter escape. Here you can see wolves, brown bears, wolverine, wild boar, lynx and even polar bears amongst an array of over 50 species that live at the park. The park is dedicated to the conservation of these endangered animals as well as the protection of their natural habitats. The park also takes in a range of injured or orphaned animals to either rehabilitate and

release them or care for them if that is not an option.

Ranua is an ideal destination for a tailor-made holiday as there is simply so much on offer. So, whether you are looking for an active holiday or are to take things at a more leisurely pace, there is something for you. The spacious, modern and well-equipped apartments have their own private saunas and are a fabulous base to return to. From December through to 10th January, we will not be offering a full board upgrade to include lunch, but guests can arrange and pay for this locally. In our experience, the restaurant can become busy during the festive lunchtimes, with outside visitors to the park, and we have found that most guests prefer to make their own lunch arrangements in their wonderfully equipped apartment kitchens. One free taxi ride to the local supermarket is included in your stay, and reception can arrange this for you either at check-in or the following day, so you can easily stock up on supplies. Breakfast and dinner are included in all our holidays.

This tailor-made holiday is based on a minimum of three nights at Ranua. The package includes return flights from London to Rovaniemi (either direct or via Helsinki) as well as half board accommodation, airport transfers and cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay. You can then add in additional nights and the activities that you would like from the full range listed in the [‘activities’](#) section of this holiday page.

Please note: Activity schedules are subject to change. Duration of activity includes transfer times and breaks, and all distances are approximate. Some activities require a minimum number of participants to operate and are subject to availability.

Single snowmobiles: All snowmobile safaris are based on two people sharing. If this is not possible in your party, then you will be paired with someone else taking part in the activity. If you wish to guarantee your own snowmobile you must pay a single snowmobile supplement - please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credits: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1	ARRIVAL
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Included Meals: Dinner

DAYS 2 TO 3	DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY
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Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Snowmobile safaris

Perhaps one of the most thrilling ways in which to explore Ranua's surrounding wilderness is via snowmobile. Enjoy the landscapes of Lapland as you pass through snow-covered forests and along trails that cut across frozen waterways. Your guide will give you full instructions before departure and a full safety briefing. You will travel two people per snowmobile throughout.

There is a range of durations to choose from:

Approximately 30 minutes - £71 per person

Approximately 1 hour - £94 per person

Approximately 2 hours - £116 per person

Approximately 4 hours - £157 per person

Approximately 6 hours - £201 per person

The distance covered on each safari will vary and will be determined by the group's ability and a snack will be provided during the 4- and 6-hour safari.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: various available

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Husky safaris

One of the most memorable and enchanting ways in which to explore the Arctic is on a husky safari, they provide an unforgettable experience.

The huskies epitomise enthusiasm when you meet them and are always eager for the trail. Full instruction and safety instruction is always provided prior to setting off on the snowy trails, travelling two people per sled. The length of the journey varies from 3km to 45km, depending on your preference and after the tour, you can meet the dogs and take pictures as well as asking any

questions you may have.

Around 3km (approx 15 mins) - £37 per person

Around 5km (approx 20-30 mins) - £57 per person

Around 50-60 mins - £88 per person

Around 1.5 - 2 hours - £117 per person

Around 4 - 5.5 hours (35-45km) - £193 per person

Duration: various available



Day trip to Rovaniemi

Following breakfast, your minibus will take you directly to Rovaniemi which is approximately one hour away.

Your first stop will be the Santa Claus Village on the Arctic Circle where you can immerse yourself in festive cheer! Here you can enjoy shopping for a wide range of locally crafted souvenirs or simply admire the beautiful festive colours and atmosphere. After lunch at the Santa Claus Village, you will head towards Arktikum, a wonderful local museum exhibiting the unique culture of the Arctic.

Alternatively, you can head to the city centre and explore

independently before heading back to Ranua.

Duration: approximately 7 Hours in total (transfer 2 hours)



3km reindeer sleigh ride

Reindeer-pulled sleighs have been used throughout the centuries in Lapland. Reindeer are ideally suited to their environment and have always been central to the culture and traditions of Lapland. This short journey via reindeer-pulled sled leads you out from Ranua and into the snow-covered landscape in a peaceful way.

Duration: approximately 40 minutes in total (3km)



Snowmobile safari to reindeer farm

Following driving instructions from your guide, you will set out to snowmobile towards Laivala, a small and traditional reindeer farm, which is approximately 15km away. Here you will be welcomed by the herder and taken to see their reindeer, before enjoying a short reindeer sled ride (approximately 300 metres).

Back at the farm you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about the life of the reindeer herders and their long history in this region. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

Duration: approximately 3 Hours in total

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence.

You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.



Meet the polar bear

The polar bear is a truly majestic animal, synonymous with the Arctic region. The Ranua Wildlife Park offers a unique opportunity to get close and observe these animals in their natural habitat.

Your guide will take you to the polar bear enclosure and you will be able to view him from the other side of the fence. Your guide will give you lots of information about this beautiful animal as you watch from just a few metres away.

Duration: Approximately 45 minutes in total



Evening snowshoe

Snowshoeing after dark is a fantastic way in which to experience the silence and tranquillity of the wilderness around Ranua. The only sounds are the crunching of the snow, the gentle swaying of the trees and the impromptu scurrying of wildlife. It's magical on a starry night to sit and gaze up at the Arctic firmament and enjoy a hot drink. This region, however, has one extra experience to offer and that is that it is within The Aurora Zone and therefore offers guests the chance to witness the Northern Lights if conditions are favourable.

Duration: approximately 2.5 hours in total

Image credit: Antti Pietikainen



Wild night safari at the Wildlife Park

The wild night safari will introduce you to those animals that are more nocturnal. As darkness falls, you will make your way into the park with your guide, using headlamps to seek out the gleaming eyes of the animals. Your guide will lead the way to the various enclosures and you'll look out for any activity. There might be a chance to feed some of the animals whilst also gaining insight into how they survive in the Arctic conditions.

After the excursion, you will enjoy a hot berry juice, whilst

chatting about your exciting experiences with the animals.

Duration: approximately 3 hours in total



Cross-country skiing

Cross-country skiing is a hugely popular activity in Finland and the trails criss-cross the countryside pretty much wherever there is snow.

Your guide will give you instruction on how to succeed in cross-country skiing before you head onto the trails to put your skills into practice. The ski tracks begin close to Ranua Wildlife Park and you will cover around 3km in total.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours (3km) in total



Snowshoeing

Perhaps one of the best ways to enjoy the tranquil, snow-covered forest neighbouring the wildlife park is to strap on a pair of snowshoes and head into the untouched, deep snow, off the beaten track. Your guide will offer lots of interesting information about the local flora and fauna and how they survive in Lapland during the winter months.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total



Searching for the Aurora Borealis by snowmobile

A snowmobile tour under the night sky is a truly magical experience, particularly when seeking out the Aurora Borealis. Heading out into the darkness, you will explore the wilderness with your guide leading the way along the dark forest trails. There will be breaks to enjoy a hot drink and keep a keen watch on the sky in anticipation of a potential Northern Lights display. The tour will take you deeper into the wilderness, away from the village and any artificial light.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.

Duration: approximately 3 hours in total

Credit: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village



Ice fishing via snowmobile

Ice fishing is a real passion for the locals and during this activity, you can find out what all of the fuss is about. You will enjoy a snowmobile safari (full instruction and a safety briefing will be provided) in order to reach a nearby frozen lake. Upon arrival, your guide will help you drill a hole in the ice and you will lower your line into the dark waters below, trying your hand at this unique form of fishing.

Warm drinks will be served and, if you are lucky enough to land a catch, you can cook it there and then.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours (around 30km in total)

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. You will travel two people per snowmobile. Single driver supplement applies.



Horse sleigh ride with Finnhorse

Meet genuine Finnhorses (the national horse breed of Finland) and enjoy a relaxing sleigh ride amidst the pristine snowy wilderness surrounding Ranua. Your journey will take you through the beautiful forest which resides next to the Wildlife Park and provides a stunning backdrop with snow-covered trees adding to the splendour. Travelling in this way feels a little like being in Narnia!

Duration: approximately 45-60 minutes (3.5km) in total



Northern Lights safari with Finn horses

Go on the hunt for the Northern Lights during a horse-drawn sleigh ride (6-8 people per sleigh) with Finn horses. You'll be wrapped up warm in your sleigh as you listen to stories about Lapland. Take in the magic of the wintry surroundings at night and if conditions are favourable, the magic will extend into the skies as the Northern Lights make their appearances.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours in total

Credit Jari Romppainen

LITTLE EXTRAS



Hot tub

After a day adventuring in the Arctic, there's no better way to unwind than in a private hot tub situated right next to your holiday apartment. With the snowy landscape around you and the potential of seeing the Northern Lights above you, relax into your holiday even further with this extra special addition. Hot tubs are bookable per apartment, per evening so once booked, it's all yours for the night. There are only two apartments with a hot tub, therefore, we recommend booking it before you go on your holiday.

Price per evening/per apartment:

£175 (Monday - Thursday)

£194 (Friday - Sunday & Public Holidays)

Image Credit: Marko Juntilla

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Arctic Fox Igloo

Add a special touch to your winter holiday in Ranua with a night in a fantastic glass igloo.

Located in an idyllic lakeside setting with very little light pollution and uninterrupted views to the North, the igloos give you the incredible opportunity to hunt for the Northern Lights from your bed.

There are 20 igloos in total (10 twin igloos and 10 family/lakeside igloos) which are located around 8km from Ranua Wildlife Park.

TWIN IGLOOS

The igloos include a twin bed and have a small kitchenette and a bathroom with a private sauna for the ultimate Finnish experience.

FAMILY/LAKESIDE IGLOOS

These igloos have the same facilities as the twin igloos but have a double bed and space for two small extra beds for children (4-14 years old) and a lake view. Please note that the maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children (4-14 years old).

Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and will be picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or issues.

Please note that the example price listed is based on guests spending the final night of their holiday in an igloo, and checking out of their apartment accommodation. If guests wish to spend any other night during their stay in a glass igloo, they must retain their apartment accommodation. Our Travel Experts will happily provide you with a quotation.

Image credit: Marko Junttila & Jari Romppainen

Included Accommodation

Gulo Gulo Holiday Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located around 4km from the small town of Ranua, the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village takes its name from the Latin word for wolverine, and the wildlife theme continues throughout due to the accommodation's proximity to the Ranua Wildlife Park which guests have unlimited access to throughout their stay.

The holiday village offers guests modern, comfortable and wonderfully equipped apartments which are self-contained and very spacious.

The simple, yet convivial restaurant at the wildlife park is where breakfasts and dinners will be served. Breakfasts are a buffet and evening meals consist of both Finnish dishes and more continental dishes, also served in a buffet format. Drinks are available for purchase with meals.

Guests will also be driven once to the local supermarket in order to stock up on any supplies that you may like to have back in the apartments.

Room types

APARTMENTS

The apartments are modern, spacious, airy and extremely comfortable. In total, there are thirty superior holiday apartments at Gulo Gulo, which are housed within ten semi-detached buildings. All of the buildings back onto the snowy forest and are within easy walking distance of the Wildlife Park and its restaurant (it's just across the road).

The ground floor accommodation comprises an open-plan living room with flat-screen TV, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen is well equipped with a stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge, coffee maker and kettle (you may want to take your own tea and coffee to enjoy in your apartment, or you can get them at the local supermarket during your trip there).

There is one twin bedroom downstairs as well as the bathroom which includes a shower, toilet and drying cabinet for clothes. There is also a private sauna which is a real treat. The accommodation also offers hairdryers and ironing facilities.

On the first floor, there is a second twin bedroom as well as an open loft area with two smaller extra beds (suitable for children) as well as a shower and toilet. All linen and towels are of course provided.

The apartments have their own decking area which can come in very handy for viewing the local

wildlife or (fingers crossed!) maybe even the Northern Lights.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum numbers required for this holiday to run vary from 2 to 8 people (depending on departure date). Maximum 42 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>